VISIT…

MARVEL
RAZORLINE
8
apr
$1.75 U.S
SUPER HEROES FROM CLIVE BARKER
Ectokid
IN FINAL BATTLE WITH ICE AUGUSTINE
OBI
SOULS MADE WHOLE
DIRECT EDITION
SKROCE
DVORAK

MEET DEX MUNGO, SOMETIME THIEF, FULL-TIME STREET RAT; HALF-HUMAN, AND HALF-GHOST. ENTER HIS REALM, THE ECTOSPHERE — A WONDROUS AND OFTEN DEADLY PLACE OF FANTASY, HORROR AND GRITTY ACTION, BETWEEN THE HERE AND THE HEREAFTER.

SAINT LOUIS CEMETERY NO. 1 IN NEW ORLEANS.
ICE AUGUSTINE CAN PICTURE THE HEAD OF JOSEPHINE MUNGO--
--WITH A NICKEL-SIZED HOLE TRICKLING RED--
--AND THE WET ANEMONE OF THE EXIT WOUND.
BUT AS THE FINGER OF HIS RIGHT HAND TIGHTENS ON THE TRIGGER--
--SO DOES THE FINGER OF HIS LEFT HAND.
DEX MUNGO HAS THROWN HIS ECTO-SELF INTO ICE'S BODY AND IS BATTLING TO KEEP CONTROL OF THE LEFT ARM OF THE ASSASSIN, TO PREVENT HIS MOTHER'S MURDER.
SOMETHING'S GOT TO GIVE--
--SOMEONE'S GOT TO DIE.
CLIVE BARKER PRESENTS. . .
Ectokid

# Souls Made Whole

Created by Clive Barker

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Pencils by Steve Skroce
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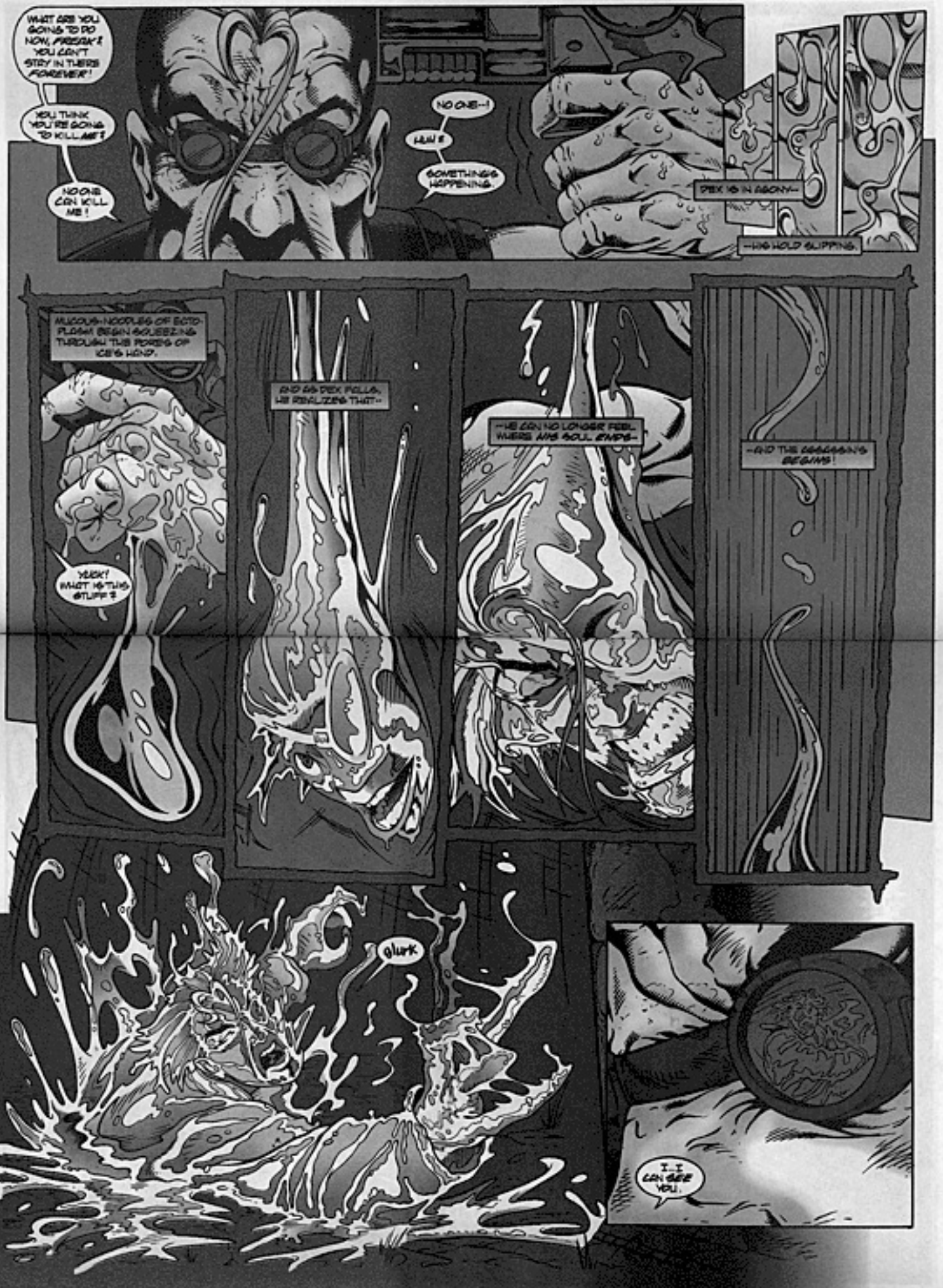
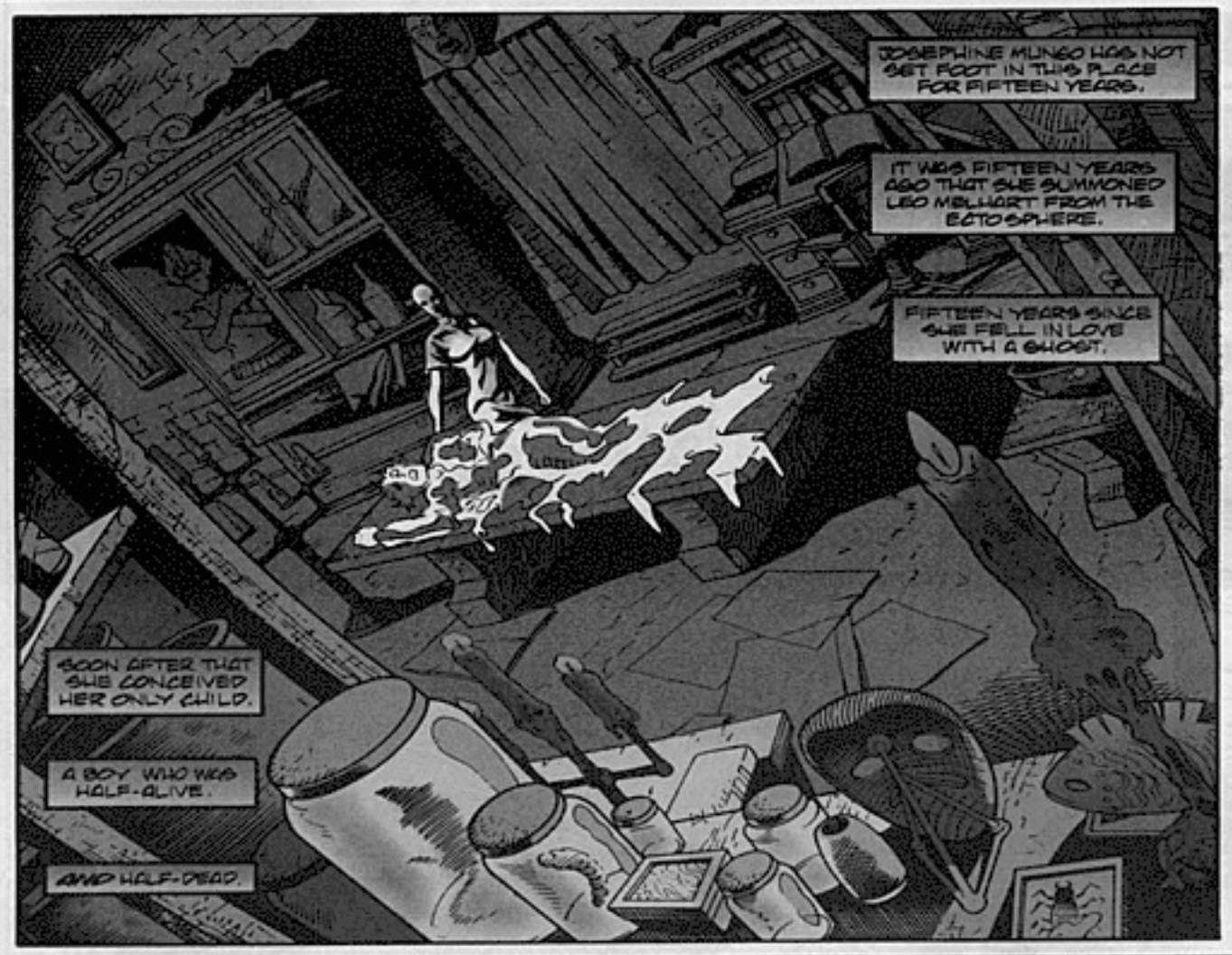

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO NOW, FREEAK? YOU CAN'T STAY IN THERE FOREVER!
YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING TO KILL ME?
NO ONE CAN KILL ME!
NO ONE--!
UH?
SOMETHING'S HAPPENING.
PEEK IS IN AGONY--
--HIS HOLD SLIPPING.
MUCOUS-NOODLES OF ECTOPLASM BEGIN SQUEEZING THROUGH THE PORES OF ICE'S HAND.
AND AS PEEK FEELS, HE REALIZES THAT--
--HE CAN NO LONGER FEEL WHERE HIS SOUL ENDS--
--AND THE ASSIMILATION BEGINS!
YUCK! WHAT IS THIS STUFF?
GLURK
I--I CAN SEE YOU.

I WIN!
I WIN!
ICE HAS NEVER SEEN A GHOST BEFORE.
A STRANGE GIDDINESS FLUTTERS THROUGH HIM.
NEVER IN HIS LIFE HAS HE FELT THIS GOOD.
YEEE-HAW!
♪"LET THE STORMY CLOUDS CHASE EVERYONE FROM THE PLACE..."♪
KABLAM! KABLAM!
♪"COME ON WITH THE RAIN, I'VE A SMILE ON MY FACE!"♪
HEY, WAIT A MINUTE. I JUST REMEMBERED...
...I'M S'POSED TO KILL SOMEBODY!
MOMMY...

HEY— YOU TALKIN' TO ME?
ARE YOU TALKIN' TO ME?!
YOU MUST BE TALKIN' TO ME-- HAR DEE HAR!
GUESS WHO I AM?
YES, THAT'S RIGHT.
I'M THE GUY WHO KILLED YOU... WHAT...?
WHAT AM I DOING...?
Sniff Sniff
MOMMY?

I'M SORRY.
I'VE BEEN A BAD BOY.
SMACK!
I LOVE YOU, MOMMY.
♪ I'M SINGING IN THE RAIN ♪
♪ JUST SINGING IN THE RAIN ♪
WHAT A GLORIOUS FEELING... I'M HAPPY...?
...HAPPY? I FEEL... WEIRD...
OH, MY CHILD, WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?
HELP ME.

FOR A HUNDRED YEARS, THIS PRALINE SHOP HAS BEEN PASSED DOWN IN THE MUNGO FAMILY FROM MOTHER TO DAUGHTER.
DRAGON ATTACKS
GAZETTE
SUPERHERO HOAXES
HOWEVER, THESE WOMEN HAVE NEVER USED IT TO MAKE CANDY.


JOSEPHINE MUNGO HAS NOT SET FOOT IN THIS PLACE FOR FIFTEEN YEARS.
IT WAS FIFTEEN YEARS AGO THAT SHE SUMMONED LEO MELLART FROM THE ECTOSPHERE.
FIFTEEN YEARS SINCE SHE FELL IN LOVE WITH A GHOST.
SOON AFTER THAT SHE CONCEIVED HER ONLY CHILD.
A BOY WHO WAS HALF-ALIVE.
AND HALF-DEAD.

YOU MERGED YOUR SOUL WITH A PART OF HIM. THAT'S WHAT SAVED ME FROM HIM.
AND THAT'S WHY YOU'RE SICK, CHILD.
SHHH. NOW JUST RELAX

ITH DITH GUNNA URD?
WE'VE GOT TO GET IT OUT, DEX. HOLD STILL.
Waaaaaahh!
SHE CAN FEEL IT, THE COLD OF ICE'S SOUL, SWIMMING ABOUT LIKE OIL ON WATER.
ALMOST DONE.
SPACK!
I'M STILL WEAK.
YOU'RE NOT WHOLE YET. PATIENCE.

WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
FOR WHAT?
I HAVE TO GET READY.
FOR THE MAN. YOU STAY HERE AND REST.
SCHLIP
glump
glump
GNNNAR
PTINK
?!
skkka
skkka
skkka
WHHHWAYA

WHAT IN THE—?
YOU CAN'T DO THAT!
KA-PLAK!

SPACE ALIEN SAVES BOY ACNE
AAAUGH!
SLOOSH!
OKEY. THAT DOES IT.

YOU'RE JUST A HAND!
YOU CAN'T BEAT ME!
NO! BUT HE CAN CALL HIS DADDY!
HI, HONEY-- I'M HOME!
KRAKRACK!
HAND!
YIP YIP YIP
AHH, THAT FEELS BETTER.
SSSLURP
HIYA, BRO! IS THIS WHERE YOU HIDE YOUR BODY?

IF IT'S HERE, I'LL FIND IT!
BOOGA BOOGA BOOGA BOOGA
AH, MAYHEM! CURES WHAT AILS YA!
STOP IT!
OKAY. NO BODY. BUT WE'RE STILL CONNECTED--YOU'LL LEAD ME TO IT EVENTUALLY.
RIGHT NOW, I'VE GOT SOME UNFINISHED BUSINESS--
I'M FEELIN' MUCH BETTER NOW. MORE IN CONTROL. SO SUPPOSE YOU TELL ME--
--WHERE'S MOMMY?

HOLY-!
THIS IS JOSEPHINE MUNGO.
SHE WAS ONCE ONE OF THE WORLD'S MOST POWERFUL PSYCHICS.
ICE AUGUSTINE! YOU HAVE SOMETHING THAT DOES NOT BELONG TO YOU!
THAT WAS THE GIFT THAT DREW THE GHOST OF LEO MELLHART TO HER.
FIFTEEN YEARS AGO, SHE STOOD IN THIS ROOM AND USED HER KNOWLEDGE, HER POWER, TO GIVE LIFE TO THEIR SON.
SHE STANDS HERE NOW, READY TO DO NO LESS.

WHAT?! WHERE?!
SHE WIELDS THE ECTOPLASM OF THE ROOM WEAVING IT INTO TENDRILS.
THIS CAN'T BE!
THIS IS IMPOSSIBLE!
FOR THOSE WHO CANNOT SEE, WHO DO NOT BELIEVE, YOU MAY BE RIGHT.
BUT WE KNOW DIFFERENT, DON'T WE, MURDERER?

HER "THIRD EYE" OPENS SO THAT SHE MAY SEE HIM WITHOUT THE MATERIAL WORLD.
AND TWISTED THROUGH THE DARKNESS OF THE ASSASSIN'S SOUL SHE SEES THE ECTOPLASM OF HER SON, TRAPPED WITHIN ICE.
DEX! HELP ME!
I'VE USED WHAT POWER I CAN TO FIND YOUR SOUL--
--YOU HAVE TO PULL IT FREE!

TAKING BACK WHAT'S MINE!
FREAK-- WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
ECTOPLASM IS ENERGY. HIS FATHER TOLD HIM THAT.
PART OF DEX'S POWER IS IN MANIPULATING THAT ENERGY.
BUT HIS FATHER NEVER WARNED HIM OF THE RESPONSIBILITY BEHIND HIS GIFT!
AAAAAARRRR!
ECTOPLASM IS A PRECIOUS THING, FOR TO LOSE TOO MUCH IS TO CEASE TO EXIST.
AND NOW, WHATEVER THE COST...
SPOING!
BOING
TRYING TO POSSESS ICE ALMOST ONE COST DEX A PIECE OF THAT ENERGY.
FZZZSHHH!
...HE WILL HAVE IT BACK.
AWRIIIGHT.

WITH HER SON NOW HEALED, SHE TURNS TO THE MAN THAT PROMISED TO KILL HER.
SHE KNOWS THE PRICE OF WIELDING HER LATENT POWER AT ONCE, LIKE THIS.
BEFORE SHE COULD TOUCH IT, SHE HAD TO SEVER HER TIES TO HER LIFE.
SHE KNOWS IT IS A TEST SHE CANNOT SURVIVE.
I'M READY FOR YOU NOW.
MOM! WHAT ARE YOU...?!
NOOOO!
BLAM
BLAM BLAM
A SMALL PRICE TO PAY, FOR THE SOUL OF HER SON.
I CAN'T SEE YOU ANYMORE, FREAK, BUT IT DOESN'T MATTER. I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING.
I CAN PICTURE YOU, DOWN ON YOUR KNEES, BAWLING YOUR LITTLE EYES OUT, SWEARING THAT ONE DAY YOU'RE GOING TO KILL ME--HA!
WE'VE GOT THE AURAT, NOW. THE EXPURGATORIUS HAS WON.
AND FROM HERE ON, YOUR LIFE AIN'T WORTH SPIT.
SEE YOU AROUND, FREAK.

HUSH, CHILD, DON'T CRY.
MOM?
THE SPIRIT OF JOSEPHINE MUNGO RISES AMONG THE PLUMES OF BLACK SMOKE.
TWO GHOSTS EMBRACE.
DEX HOLDS HIS MOTHER--
--AS FLAMES CONSUME THE WALLS OF THE PAST.
ONE DAY I WILL KILL HIM!
DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND? THIS IS WHAT I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR. WHAT I'VE BEEN AFRAID OF.
HE SET ME FREE.

FROM THE BILLOWING BLACK CLOUDS EMERGE THE ETHERITES, THE GUARDIANS OF THE ECTOSPHERE'S GATEWAYS.
NO! YOU TOOK MY FATHER FROM ME-- I WON'T LET YOU TAKE HER!
DON'T BE AFRAID OF THEM, DEX. THEY'RE NOT YOUR ENEMY. I SEE THAT, NOW.
I WASN'T THE MOTHER THAT I WANTED TO BE...
...BUT I LOVED YOU, CHILD. I ALWAYS WILL.
MOM, I... I...

I'LL FIND YOUR FATHER.
GOODBYE, SON.
HE HAD FELT, THROUGHOUT HIS LIFE, THAT HIS MOTHER WAS MORE DEAD THAN ALIVE.
NOW AS HE WATCHES HER SOUL SHIMMERING BEHIND THE CURTAIN OF HEAT AND COALESCING FLAME--
--SHE LOOKS TO HIM, MORE ALIVE THAN DEAD.
I... LOVE YOU, MOM.

**NEXT ISSUE: THE STALKING OF DEX MUNGO! AND THE CHILLING AFTERMATH!**

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# EctoKid

**QUESTION OF THE MONTH**
**In an effort to keep our creative team in touch with you,we asked penciller STEVE SKROCE:**

**Do you have any suggestions for the up-and-coming artist?**

**Skroce** — Just do it because it's fun. Try and go to conventions and listen to what the other artists have to say. But you've got to really be tenacious. Mail your stuff in and go to the conventions, but when you meet someone who basically says your work is bad, just don't believe them; it won't be bad forever if you keep working at it. Just don't let anyone tell you you can't, if you really want to.

**Thanks, Steve.**

Dear ECTOKID,

One of the things that amazes me about this book is that the small preview of it I saw in the Razorline preview book left me so utterly unprepared for what I was going to find when the book actually came out. I mean, I read all of the promos, that this kid, Dex Mungo, is a street punk who suddenly finds that he can jump back and forth between the spirit world and the human world. And that thereafter sinister characters on both sides want him — dead or alive. I thought I was ready for what that'd mean. Color me surprised!

Y'see, I thought when you guys said spirit world that it was going to be some nebulous, limbo-like place where the ghosts of the restless dead congregate. I had no idea that you were going to actually send Mungo to Hell, implying that an occasional trip to heaven might also take place here. While graphic representation of hell in comics are common nowadays, most comic book writers shy away from detailing heaven for fear of offending the various religions; if you are indeed intending to defy the taboo, I applaud your courage. It seems kind of silly, to me, to have all that fuss, though. If each person's vision of hell is different and no one cares, why shouldn't the same be true for each person's vision of heaven?

I also wasn't prepared to see historical figures pop up as characters in the book. Okay, maybe Cyrano DeBurgerac isn't exactly a historical figure, except in fiction, but I seem to remember reading about the sinister La Voisin somewhere else. In both cases though, it was surprising to see them show up. And as someone who finds historical figures returning to modern life an intriguing concept wherever it's used, I for one am very much impressed! I can see a lot of very rich potential in that concept alone. Insofar as this book is concerned, I hope you make full use of it!

David Peatie
4517 Birch Bark Road
Concord, CA 94521

**First off, David, this is the Ectosphere-enter without any pre-conceptions of the afterlife! This is neither heaven nor hell. The Ectosphere is the realm through which all the souls of this world must pass, but not necessarily their final destination! As we've seen, the souls who populate the ectosphere are those who, for one reason or another, refuse or are unable to move on, clinging to life and its trappings. That makes this realm a fascinating one to explore!**

**On that note, you can look forward to meeting many new faces and places in the pages of ECTOKID. Some you might recognize, others you won't; regardless, but if it's exciting characters you want to meet, this is the place to watch!**

Dear Razorline,

I just thought I'd drop you a line to comment on you new titles. I must say being the huge Clive Barker fan that I am I was a bit skeptical at the thought of Clive doing a line of superhero books. But Clive, being the literary genius that he is, pulled off yet another miracle. With tons of help from the creative teams, he's helped put together a line to take Marvel comics to new heights. With the cancelation of the HELLRAISER and NIGHTBREED books, I thought the choices were again dwindling for us other kids. But through the creation of the Barkerverse, quality, intelligent comic books are again available. Not to demean other super-hero books, but when I read a book, I don't want to read about total super-hero armageddon through all twenty-six pages. I mean, we all like a good fight now and again, but how about a little mental stimulation in the process?! Anyway, here's to the best change in the comic book industry in years.

Let's start with HOKUM & HEX. This is a killer book with a a humorous twist to top it all off. Again, great job, Frank, Anthony, and Andy have definitely pulled it off.

Next on the list is HYPERKIND. How about a super-hero team of misfits that didn't even want to be blessed with super powers in the first place. What a premise! Fred's stories, Paris's pencils, and Bob's inks are top notch! Long live the Paxis.

Next on the chopping block is SAINT SINNER. I didn't know what to think of this book but after reading the first few issues I've come to the conclusion that this is one of the strangest miracles ever. I've never read a book as unique as SAINT SINNER. Elaine's storylines and Max's art work are each definitely one of a kind. SAINT SINNER is unlike anything achieved in comics to date.

And certainly last, but not least, is ECTOKID. This is my personal favorite. I've been hooked on Dex from the very beginning. This book is totally amazing. The best comic book I've read in a lot of years. The art and story lines of Mr. Mungo's worlds are truly astounding. Larry, Steve, and Bob deserve the attention of the entire comic book community. Excellent job, guys!

In closing, thanks to Razorline for keeping Clive's foray in comics alive. I also hope there are plans to expand the Barkerverse in the future. I hope the success of the Razorline family continues for eternity. Thanks again for the quality reading material!

George Moppin
8731 Presidents Drive
Hummelstown, PA 17036

**Thanks for the applause, George. Unfortunately, this is the penultimate issue of ECTOKID in its current incarnation. Next issue will be our final issue, and we're going out with a bang! And, before you panic, relax and know that we will be seeing Dex again in the pages of an amazing ECTOKID SPECIAL, due out this summer. Along with the animated feature in the works, Dex is about to ooze to new heights in the world beyond! More on this, and other exciting ecto-plans, next ish! Be here—it's your last chance!**

**NEXT:**
He's lost the Aurat. He's lost his mother. What's left for Dex to lose? His life! Join us for an amazing exploration of love and death in the fast lane, as Dex discovers:

**"Love is Like a Bullet!"**

**CUTTING EDGE ALERT!**
**Next week in**
**HOKUM & HEX #8:**
Trip vs. Bloodshed, round two! Only one will walk away! (And considering Trip is already half dead, you might not want to place bets on who!)

**ELSEWHERE, ALONG THE RAZOR'S EDGE:**

**In HYPERKIND #9:**
The fanatical fury of **Lazurex Prime!** How do you stop a man that's a living machine? Our heroes only shot is the lost fifth power—if they can locate it in the heat of battle with a mechanical fury!